(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र ने कितना-कितना लाभ अर्जित किया अथवा उसे घाटा हुआ ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान, अप्रैल, 1992 से 17 जुलाई, 1992 तक की अवधि में बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र द्वारा उत्पादित कच्चे लोहे की विभिन्न किस्म की कुल मात्रा का श्रेणीवार ब्यौरा निम्नानुसार है:—

श्रेणी	इकाई (टन)
हाई सिलिकॉन	1515
फाउण्डरी ग्रेड	8394
स्टैण्डर्ड बेसिक ग्रेड	15036
ऑफ ग्रेड	18740
कुल :	43685

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र द्वारा अर्जित लाभ निम्नानुसार है :—

वर्ष	लाभ (करोड़ रुपये)
1989–90	253.82
1990–91	179.57
1991–92	231.64 (अनन्तिम)

Hike in Steel Price

1729. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Engineering Industries of India has urged Government to direct SAIL and TISCO to withdraw the recent hike in prices;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether the price of steel is increasing in the country since its decontrol; and

(d) if so, what effective steps Government propose to take to check the rise in prices of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Federation of Engineering Industries has represented against the increase in steel prices by the main producers including the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO).

(b) and (c) After deregulation of prices of steel w.e.f. 16-1-92, the integrated steel plants became free to determine and announce the prices of their products. However, prices were increased by them only in May, 1992 to meet the escalations in input costs. The impact of this price increase on open market prices has not been significant.

(d) Delicensing of the iron and steel sector and decontrol of steel prices will provide the requisite environment for the creation of new capacities in the private sector. Import duties on raw materials for the steel industry have also been reduced. As a result, there will be higher produtcion of steel and greater competitiveness in the steel industry which will have a restraining influence on steel prices.

Setting up of Steel Plants

1730. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan to set up more integrated steel plants in the country either in Public Sector or Private Sector during the 8th Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the absence of infrastructure and other linkages many foreign companies are feeling hesitant to invest in this capital intensive steel sector;

(c) if so, what facilities Government propose to provide in this regard indicating (i) dereservation of steel input in mineral bearing areas; and (ii) adequate facilities to handle volume of traffic for minerals as well as for the finished products; and

(d) what are Government's future plans for meeting the increasing demade/requirements of steel production or say up to projected level during 1992—97 period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to set up a new greenfield integrated steel plant in the public sector during 8th Five Year Plan period. It is however, proposed to modernise/expand the existing integrated steel plants in the public sector.

Under the new Industrial Policy announced in July 1991, 'Iron and Steel' has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and exempted from the requirements of compulsory licencing except for certain locational restrictions. Iron and Steel has also been recently included in the list of high priority industries which have the facility for automatic approval of foreign investment in equity upto 51 percent. Control over pricing and distribution of steel has been dispensed with. These measures are expected to attract investment from the private sector and foreign companies in the iron and steel industry.

While the mining of certain important raw materials like iron ore required for steel making is at present reserved for the public sector, there is no bar to private sector participation if the national interest so warrants. All possible assistance is also being provided to meet the emerging volume of raw material movement for setting up of new steel making capacities. Import duties on steel melting scrap and other intermediate products have also been reduced to enable the secondary sector to optimally utilise the existing capacities thereby contributing to increase in production.

The above measures are expected to result in increased production from the main producers as well as the secondary sector which would make India self-sufficient in most categories of steel by the end of 8th Five Year Plan period (1992—97).

Iron ore purchased by Japan from Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited

1731. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the foreign buyers including Japan of KUDREMUKH iron ore concentrates and pellets have complained that the SILICA content in the ore is much higher than the contractual agreement and the crushing strength of the pellets much lower than agreed upon;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the quantity thereof in tonnes purchased by Japan from Kudremukh, during 1991-92 and reasons for not maintaining the quality standard;

(c) what was the total production by KIOCL (Kudremukh Iron Ore Company) during the last two years and the targets of production of concentrates set for 1993-94;

(d) what was the total annual expenditure incurred during 1991-92 on quality